

*The Committee for Public Higher
Education Collection*

1973-1986

Finding Aid



Archives and Special Collections



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 15 - 01

Size: 7.5 cu. ft.

Provenance: Hadassah Gold

Restrictions: None

Location: Range 1 Section 5 Shelf 30

Archivist: Prof. Julio L. Hernandez - Delgado

Assistants: Tim Tetreault

Date: May 2015

Revised:

HISTORICAL NOTE

According to their Statement of Purpose, “The Committee for Public Higher Education (CPHE) is a broad coalition of groups which share the goal of preserving and strengthening the historic mission of public higher education in New York City and State.” The organization was formed in 1966 to protect free tuition at The City University of New York (CUNY). Despite the fact that in 1976 tuition was imposed, the group continued their unwavering dedication to the cause of the enhancement of New York State’s public colleges and universities. The organization was formally incorporated in 1979 and its members included fifty-six major organizations, their constituents numbering over 2,000,000 New Yorkers. The CPHE and its predecessor organizations sought to improve the financial status, educational accessibility, and institutional autonomy of New York City’s municipal colleges. The organizations that made up CPHE shared a conviction that a free, autonomous, and adequately funded CUNY represented an outstanding and uniquely important resource for all New Yorkers. The Committee for Public Higher Education does not appear to be active after 1986.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Committee for Public Higher Education (CPHE) Collection is an important resource for researchers interested in studying the effectiveness and methods of lobbying groups attempting to make changes in education policy. Those interested in educational law, political science, or the history of the City University of New York would also benefit from the CPHE collection.

The minutes of the meetings that took place between 1976 and 1985, as well as the information packets, serve as a valuable tool for researchers to study the issues the CPHE took on like maintaining free tuition and having an adequately funded City University for the citizens of New York City. The various proposals that were submitted to government agencies clearly outline the group's goals and the correspondence with agencies such as the New York City Council, the Governor's Office, and the New York Senate, documents the successes and failures of this organization.

The studies and reports included illustrate to researchers the various avenues the group took to prove the validity and importance of their mission and goals. All materials within the collection are arranged chronologically.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I - Committees

This series is arranged into three subseries:

- 1.1 Committee for Public Higher Education
- 1.2 Ad-Hoc Committee
- 1.3 Nominating Committee

Subseries 1.1 consists of several copies of the Committee for Public Higher Education's By-Laws, 1979 - 1984, arranged chronologically. Attached to some are memos announcing new amendments and other new information. Also enclosed is a copy of CPHE's Statement of Purpose. Subseries 1.2 consists of the few documents that contain the "Ad Hoc Committee For City University," which may have been the precursor to CPHE. There is a statement, a legal petition and a few letters all from 1973. Subseries 1.3 consists of correspondence pertaining to nominating committees, membership and board lists, many from CPHE executives. These documents range from 1977 - 1986. Both subseries are chronologically arranged.

Series II - Executive Correspondence

Series II consists of the correspondence of the various CPHE executives from 1975 - 1986, arranged by date of term in office. Included are letters and memos both to and from CPHE executives. They are organized chronologically, by executive, each with his or her own folder. The correspondence covers a wide range of topics and is arranged chronologically within each folder.

Series III - Member/Mailing Lists

Series III consists of several lists of CPHE members as well as potential CPHE donors from the years 1974 -1980, arranged chronologically. There are also lists of organizations and politicians that are sympathetic to the institutions' causes, such as a list of "Favorable Democrats in the State Assembly."

Series IV - Meetings

This series is arranged into two subseries:

- 4.1 Meeting Information Packets (1975 - 1985)
- 4.2 Minutes (1974 - 1985)

Subseries 4.1 consists of information packets for various types of meetings and also memos pertaining to such meetings (1979 - 1984). Arranged chronologically, most of these packets are stapled bundles containing minutes from the previous meeting, proposed agendas, news clippings pertaining to the current issues, copies of important letters that have been issued, budget reports, amendments to by-laws and press releases. Contained within series 4.1 are

information packets for both executive meetings (1981 - 1983) and plenary meetings (1979 - 1985). Subseries 4.2 consists of minutes from meetings throughout the existence of CPHE. Some include attendance lists and have memos attached highlighting important topics to be discussed as well as agendas. The minutes included span the years 1974 - 1985.

Series V - Action Campaigns and Proposals

Series V consists of various letters and documents, arranged chronologically, spanning the years 1975 – 1985, that charted the course for CPHE, expressed their ideals, goals, and commitments. Many of the letters were sent to government officials and various organizations. Included documents contained plans of action against proposed legislative changes. Some ephemeral pamphlets are also included.

Series VI - Budget

Series VI consists of various documents, chronologically arranged, related to budgetary concerns, including CPHE finance reports which range from hand-written balance sheets to highly detailed operating budgets. There are budget fact sheets and correspondence highlighting budget concerns and quarterly fiscal reports. While most documents deal with CPHE budgetary concerns, others deal with government budget information pertaining to education. These documents are from the years 1979 - 1985.

Series VII - Tuition Assistance Programs

Series VII consists of various documents and memos pertaining to state tuition assistance programs, namely TAP and CAP from the years 1979 - 1984, arranged chronologically. Within the files are letters to CPHE members and government officials concerning these programs. Also included are various fact sheets describing these tuition assistance programs.

Series VIII - Government Correspondence

Series VIII consists of much correspondence between CPHE executives and various government agencies from 1974 - 1984. Arranged chronologically are letters to many public officials such as New York City Mayors Abraham Beame and Edward Koch, Deputy Mayors Zucotti and Wagner, and many other city officials and judges. The New York City Council and the Office of Comptroller are also represented as is correspondence with the State Education Department, the State Assembly and the CUNY Chancellor. State officials such as New York Governors Hugh Carey and Mario Cuomo are also included, as well as some federal government documents.

Series IX - Legal

Series IX consists of various legal documents including excerpts copied from education law books, copies of litigation petitions and affidavits, copies of Supreme Court decisions, and any correspondence with law office letterheads covering the years 1976 - 1985. Also included is a proposed Certificate of Incorporation for the Foundation of Higher Education. The documents are arranged chronologically.

Series X - Legislature

Series X consists of anything pertaining to the New York State Legislature that affects CPHE and its constituents between the years 1975 and 1982. Arranged chronologically are copies of State Assembly acts, the documentation of the challenging of the New York Supreme Court's ending of CUNY free tuition, and summaries of New York State Regents' legislative proposals. Also included is a complete copy of the original 1979 draft legislation prepared by the Assembly staff.

Series XI - Testimonies

Series XI contains printed versions of testimonies and statements given to various councils, assemblies and agencies by CPHE executives between the years 1974 and 1983. They are arranged chronologically.

Series XII - Writings

This series is arranged in three subseries:

- 12.1 Studies and Reports
- 12.2 Press Releases
- 12.3 Clippings

Subseries 12.1 consists of studies and reports pertaining to public university tuition policy and the effects of changing legislation. Arranged chronologically, the reports are prepared by various groups including outside agencies, groups within CPHE, and governmental agencies between the years 1974 and 1984. Subseries 12.2 consists of various press releases from CPHE between the years 1973 - 1984. Many deal with changes in legislation regarding higher education with an emphasis on proposed tuition hikes and its possible effects on society and the economy. Also included are official statements made by CPHE and its executives. Subseries 12.3 consists of clippings from various publications mostly concerning tuition and public education issues between the years 1975 - 1985. Many are attached to memos or letters to associates of CPHE. Some of the publications from which the clippings are drawn include: *New York Times*, *Jewish Press*, *Daily News*, *New York Law Journal*, *Newsday* and the *Village Voice*. Also included are articles from New York State regional papers such as Albany's *Times Union*, *Knickerbocker News Union-Star* and the *Oswego Palladium Times*. All subseries are arranged chronologically.

Series XIII - Organizations

Series XIII is arranged in three subseries:

- 13.1 Alumni Associations
- 13.2 Foundation for Higher Education
- 13.3 New York State Temporary Commission on Lobbying

Subseries 13.1 consists of any documents relating to alumni associations. Included are CPHE Committee on Alumni Affairs Conference information packets, various alumni association publications and pamphlets, alumni association by-laws, some budgetary documents, member lists, and an alumni association survey and the corresponding analysis of responses from the years 1978 - 1983. Subseries 13.2 consists of documents created by the non-profit corporation "Foundation For Higher Education" which coexists within the Committee for Public Higher Education. Contained within this series are FHE's By-Laws, tax-exemption documents, lists of FHE officers, and articles of incorporation from the years 1983 and 1984. Subseries 13.3 consists of correspondence between CPHE executives and the New York State Temporary Commission on Lobbying between the years 1982 and 1984. Also included is a copy of the Lobbying Act containing the legislative declaration and a copy of the Lobbyist Statement of Registration. All subseries are arranged chronologically.

Series XIV - Donations

Series XIV consists of documents related to contributions to CPHE from the years 1976 - 1984, chronologically arranged. Included are letters that accompanied donation checks, some with cancelled checks or copies attached, ledger pages documenting incoming contributions and receipt logs.

Series XV - Internship Programs

Series XV consists of correspondence and other documents pertaining to various CUNY Internship programs. Included is a blank internship application for John Jay College and an annual report from 1982 - 83 titled "The City University Internship Program in New York Government and Politics."

Series XVI - Miscellaneous Materials

Series XVI consists of very few items. One of note is the script and shot list for a video created by the Foundation for Public Higher Education in 1983 called "Vote of Confidence." Also included is a CUNY seal decal and attached letter ordering a captain's chair embossed with the logo. Also some accolades for Stanley Lowell and Leonard Shine, a citation for an honorary doctorate of laws, and a "Register to Vote" poster. These items are from 1976 - 1983, arranged chronologically.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I - COMMITTEES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Committee for Public Higher Education, 1979 - 1984
	2	Ad-Hoc Committee, 1973
	3	Nominating Committee, 1977 - 1985

SERIES II - EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE

1	4	Edward Moldover, 1975 - 1976
	5	Bernard Bellush, 1977 - 1985
	6	Jay Hershenson, 1978 - 1981
	7	Stanley Lowell, 1979 - 1983
	8	Leonard Shine, 1983 - 1984
	9	Cecil Forster, 1980 - 1986

SERIES III - MEMBER/MAILING LISTS

1	10	1974 - 1980
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SERIES IV - MEETINGS

Subseries 4.1 Meeting Information Packets (1975-1985)

2	1	Meeting Memos, 1975 - 1979
	2	Meeting Memos, 1980 - 1984
	3	Executive Committee Info Packets, 1981 - 1983
	4	CPHE Plenary Info Packs, 1979 - 1980
	5	CPHE Plenary Info Packs, 1981 - 1985

Subseries 4.1 Minutes (1974-1985)

2	6	Minutes, 1974 - 1977
	7	Minutes, 1978 - 1985

SERIES V- ACTION CAMPAIGNS AND PROPOSALS

3	1	Action campaigns and proposals, 1975 - 1979
	2	Action campaigns and proposals, 1980 - 1985
	3	Action campaigns and proposals, n.d.

SERIES VI – BUDGET

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
3	4	Budget documents for City, State, CPHE, 1979 - 1985

SERIES VII - TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

3	5	Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), CAP, 1979 - 1984
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SERIES VIII - GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENCE

3	6	Mayoral Correspondence, 1974 - 1984
	7	State Government Correspondence, 1974 - 1984
	8	City Council Correspondence, 1980 - 1984
	9	CUNY Chancellor Correspondence, 1975 - 1984
	10	State Education Department Correspondence, 1976 - 1984
	11	State Assembly Correspondence, 1976 - 1984
	12	State Senate Correspondence, 1977 - 1984

SERIES IX - LEGAL

4	1	Litigation Documents, Law Office Correspondence, 1976 - 1984
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SERIES X - LEGISLATURE

4	2	Alerts, In Senate, In Assembly, 1975 - 1982
	3	Original Draft Legislation, 1979

SERIES XI - TESTIMONIES

4	4	Testimonies, 1974 - 1979
	5	Testimonies, 1980 - 1983
		Testimonies, n.d.

SERIES XII - WRITINGS

Subseries 12.1 Studies and Reports

4	6	Studies and Reports, 1970's
	7	Studies and Reports, 1980's

Subseries 12.2 Press Releases

5	1	Press Releases, 1973 - 1984
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Subseries 12.3 Clippings

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
5	2	Clippings, 1975 - 1985

SERIES XIII - ORGANIZATIONS

Subseries 13.1 Alumni Associations

5	3	Agendas, 1981
	4	Publications, 1983
	5	Correspondence, 1978 - 1983
	6	Surveys, 1982

Subseries 13.2 Foundation for Higher Education

5	7	By-Laws, Tax Documents, 1983 - 1984
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Subseries 13.3 New York State Temporary Commission on Lobbying

5	8	Correspondence Between the Commission and CPHE, 1982 - 1984
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SERIES XIV - DONATIONS

5	9	Logs of Contributions and Correspondence Related to Donations, 1976 - 1984
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SERIES XV - INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

5	10	Internship Program Correspondence, CUNY Internship Annual Report, 1982 - 1985
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SERIES XVII - MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

5	11	Miscellaneous Materials, 1976 - 1983
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